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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1915.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THE NEW LIQUOR ACT.

The bill to Consolidate and Amend the Liquor License Act which passed the Provincial Legislature yesterday represents the serious and earnest thought of the members of the Legislature, and especially of the committee which had the measure in its charge. As it stands it is the most advanced temperance legislation ever generally adopted in this province.

There has been more or less agitation in favor of a period of prohibition during the war, and resolutions advocating such a measure have been discussed and adopted by various worthy bodies. The presence in St. John of a military regiment has brought the fact of war very close to residents of this city and also served to turn the attention of many people to the advisability of removing from the paths of the soldiers all temptation to drinking. To a certain extent this has had an influence tending toward the advocacy of prohibition for the duration of the war.

While it is not apparent that the efficiency of Canadian military forces, here or elsewhere, has been impaired through drinking, yet the Government policy of prohibiting the sale of liquor to officers or men, in uniform, is a good one, and the fact that this prohibition is not limited to the war term will also find general commendation. It should serve to implant in the minds of parents the knowledge that their sons are immune from this temptation while in uniform and remove any objection there might be on that score to young men joining the Canadian defence forces in time of war or later.

The question of temporary prohibition of the sale of liquor, while representing a sentiment and a strong and worthy one, presents great practical difficulties in the way of its solution. Wholesale liquor merchants have large stocks, possibly, in view of tariff changes, larger now than ordinarily. The disposition of these stocks, in the event of a measure of temporary prohibition, would be a difficulty. The Government could not buy them nor hold them as they are largely of a perishable nature. It would not be advisable to permit the dealers to hold them for there would always be the temptation to surreptitious sale, as has been evidenced in the case of selling liquors in Scott Act counties. It has been suggested that interest should be paid to dealers on the value of their stock in trade during the period of prohibition, but this would entail a financial problem the Government could not be expected to face. Of course many of these difficulties would be obviated if a measure of total prohibition was under consideration, because there would be a period between the passage of such a measure and the time of its coming into effect, and the financial loss entailed would not be so heavy.

The section in the new act shortening the length of day in which liquor can be sold is also a wise provision, as it can be determined whether there will be as much drinking in the short day as in the longer one, and in this way an indication may be furnished as to the probable effect of a prohibitory measure.

The appointment of a provincial inspector is a long step in the right direction, as it will mean a more stringent enforcement of the prohibition of the shipment of liquor into Scott Act counties. In certain counties of this province a majority of the people have decided that they do not want liquor sold and their wishes have a right to respect. It is expected that difficulties in the way of an absolute prohibition of this traffic, which existed under former acts, should be largely removed by the provisions now made.

It will be noticed that the strongest measures have been taken to stamp out "pocket peddling" and while the provision for this purpose may be regarded by some as an interference with the personal rights of the individual the community generally will accept it as good legislation.

Altogether the new liquor regulations appear to be absolutely fair. There may be some disappointment that a measure of absolute prohibition for the term of the war has not been passed, but even those good citizens who have been active in their advocacy of such a policy will recognize the great difficulties in the way and will agree that the Government has found a good solution for a perplexing problem.

THE BOOT BUBBLE PRICKED.

It will be noticed that the "boot scandal" is not attracting so much attention in the Liberal press now, as formerly. The reason is simple. The "scandal" has collapsed. From the moment the first criticism of the Canadian boots was heard the "muck-rakers" in the Liberal party set out with the idea of making it a first class scandal and nursing it along to maturity. They had no knowledge that the boots were bad, but they were prepared to go to any lengths to prove their case, and to tell to the world that the great Canadian shoe industry was in the hands of crooks and grafters whose sole thought was how much money could be made out of their contracts, and with no regard at all for the quality of the product supplied.

At a time when no evil word should be spoken of Canada or Canadian industry the conduct of the Liberals, even if justified, was bad enough, but under the circumstances it is immeasurably worse. The Government, when the matter was first brought to its attention, took prompt and public measures for a full enquiry. This was hardly the act of guilty men. This was not the procedure followed by the Liberal government when charges reflecting even upon its integrity were preferred. Then there was a "blockade brigade" to keep information from getting to the public ear. The Borden Government, on the contrary, arranged that a most exhaustive investigation should be held into the whole matter; that all evidence should be produced, and that every item in connection with the supply of boots to the Canadian forces should be probed to the bottom. Samples of the boots, new, and which had seen service, were produced and examined by experts, and what was the result? The experts were appointed unanimously by the committee having the enquiry in charge, and that committee numbered Liberals as well as Conservatives, yet no man raised his voice in protest against the men selected.

After 51 sittings had been held and 87 witnesses heard, after the experts had carefully examined samples of the boots supplied by every contractor who had a share of the business, a report was submitted, and this report contained the result of thorough examination of all the boots which had been rejected by the regimental boards of enquiry. The results of this report can be summarized as follows: Total number of condemned or discarded boots forwarded and examined, 1713. Of these there were rendered useless by the soldiers burning them, 112. Leaving 1601. Of this number there were repairable boots to the number of 1448. Leaving unrepairable only 153. Of these, again, their unrepairable condition was due to the following causes: Cut by nail, 48; and by boot or spur, 22—a total of 70. This, it will be seen, leaves unrepairable, due to ordinary wear, 83. 68 had been not equal to sample by reason of being too light in the backs.

From the Government records it is shown that 86,000 boots had been issued to and are now in use by the soldiers in training in Canada since the war began. Of this number 7,867 have been condemned, or about nine per cent. of the whole issue. But applying to these boots the same tests and averages as were found by the experts, appointed by the Committee, it will show that there are repairable, 6,599; mutilated, not through ordinary wear, 319, leaving as the number useless from ordinary causes as 379. It is clear that the number of bad boots so far as can be ascertained by any test is less than one-half of one per cent. of the total issue, or one boot in every 200.

It is not possible to carry the same exact comparison to all the boots which passed the regimental boards and are now actually being used by the men at the front, but there is a quantity of evidence from the soldiers themselves that the Canadian boot, while a shade lighter, is more comfortable than the English boot, and equally as durable under ordinary active service conditions. Even in face of the evidence the

Liberals were not satisfied, but submitted a minority report disagreeing with the findings of the Committee. So poor a showing did the Liberals make, however, that they did not dare subscribe themselves to it. When the minority report was moved it was declared "lost on division," and no record of the yeas and nays was called for. Even the man who moved the minority report did not remain in the Chamber when the debate ended.

While the matter was before the Committee the Liberal press teemed with editorial denunciations of the Government, and of the contractors, irrespective of whether the boots were good or bad, but now that there is an opportunity to judge from the absolute facts of the case the Liberals are very willing to forget it. After libelling a great industry and attempting to bring discredit on the whole commercial and industrial structure in Canada, the Liberal newspapers do not dare to return to the subject in defence of the attitude of their own party. As stated in the opening paragraph of this article the reason for this silence is not difficult to find. The "boot scandal" bubble has been pricked. As a matter of absolute verity there never was a scandal, and the Liberals know it.

NEW FEATURES FOR THE MUSICAL REVUE

A Fine Array of Numbers for Next Week—Matinee Today.

Mack's Musical Revue has been presenting a splendid program for the last part of this week and has been drawing good houses. There will be a matinee today with some special features introduced for the children.

An entire change of program will be offered for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the coming week, some of the features being a big Musical Melange, the comedy one act play, "Down on the Farm"; De Luna and Adelle, novelty entertainers, who were general favorites with the company last summer; a Chinese love song with special scenery and costumes; Nat Farnum in a darkey specialty; the musical skit, "At the Hotel," wit plenty of dancing and musical comedy hits. A full 2 hour program with one intermission and everything new. There will be a matinee on Wednesday with souvenir chocolates for the ladies.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CONCERT ON MONDAY

Entertainment in New Hall in Aid of Patriotic and Belgian Funds.

Arrangements have been completed by the Knights of Columbus for the entertainment under their auspices on Monday evening in their hall, Coburg street. The proceeds will be in aid of the Patriotic and Belgian funds and there is no doubt that a large audience will be in attendance.

The members of the Knights of Columbus have given their hall on several occasions for patriotic purposes and as a tribute to the work done by the order the members of the Royal Standard Chapter, Daughters of the Empire will attend in a body.

The best local talent has been secured and the programme will include numbers of unusual merit.

Message of Hope For All Women

Miss Mary Sabourin Tells How She Found Health.

Suffered For Three Years and Could Find no Lasting Relief Till She Used Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Thurso, Que., April 23.—(Special.)—Tired, run-down women can read a message of hope in the statement of Miss Mary Sabourin, an estimable lady living here. In a statement to the public Miss Sabourin says: "I was a sufferer for three years. I was always tired and nervous. My sleep was broken and unrefreshing. I was troubled with headaches and pains in my back. I had heart flutterings to add to my anxiety."

"I was treated by a doctor and a specialist but nothing seemed to do me any lasting good till I started to use Dodd's Kidney Pills and I took just three boxes of them. Nine-tenths of women's troubles come from sick kidneys. Sick kidneys fail in their duty of straining the impurities out of the blood. That means that poison and disease is carried to all parts of the body. The remedy is to cure the kidneys with Dodd's Kidney Pills. If you haven't used them ask our neighbor about them. Nearly every family in Canada is using or has used Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAGE

Poor Stinkiness sissy cousin Persey was setting a half of a chocolate egg today, and I was standing there looking at him, and awl of a sudden a big bee started to fly around his head making a noise, and I sed, Cheese it, Persey, there's a bee, and Persey started to run around the lamp post waving his arms around and saying, Shoo, shoo, but the bee keep awn following him feet the salm, as if it thawt Persey was playing a game of tag with it.

G. Persey, I sed, I bet its affir that peece of easir egg. And Persey keep awn running around the lamp post trying to make the bee stop following him, saying, Bess dont like easir eggs, do they. Go awn, there krazy about them, I sed.

Wich maybe they are for all I no, and Persey quick handid me the peece of easir egg wile he was running around, saying, Heer, hold it for me, will you.

Like fun I will, do you think I want to take a chance of beeing stung, I sed.

Ill give you a peece of it if you hold it, sed Persey. Give me half of it, I sed.

Yes, Ill give you half of it, he sed.

And I took the peece of easir egg, and Persey stopped running, awl out of breth, and heer the bee was still making a noise around his hed and wooden go away.

Darn it, it wasent affir the easir egg after awl, sed Persey. And he started to run around agen, the bee properly not having any speehil ressin for chasing him.

Maybe it didnt see you hand it to me, I sed. And I stood there eeting it and watching Persey and the bee running.

Hay, stop that, stop that eeting it, I see you, sed Persey. Im only eeting my half of it, I sed.

And I keep awn eeting it and the bee didnt stop chasing Persey till I had my half finished.

G, do you call that half, its a pritty big half, sed Persey. Wich it was.

REPORT NORWEGIAN

VESSELS IN DISTRESS

London, April 24 (12.50 a.m.)—The officers of a Danish steamer which arrived at Tyne tonight report that on Thursday morning they encountered the Norwegian bark Eya and Oscar, the former on fire and abandoned, and the latter in sinking condition, with its boats missing.

OBITUARY.

Isaac Gross Hillsboro, April 22—The death of Isaac N. Gross, one of the oldest and most respected residents of Hillsboro, occurred at his late residence, on Wednesday morning, April 22, at ten o'clock. Deceased, who was ninety years of age, was exceptionally bright and enjoyed good health until within one week of his death. Mr. Gross was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Steeves of Hillsboro, his second wife, who survives him, a Mrs. (Dr.) P. Steeves; formerly Miss Lawrence of Albert, N. B. Deceased had always resided in Hillsboro, being one of the oldest members of the First Baptist church. He is survived by a wife, one sister, Miss Ruth Bray of Surrey, Albert county, and one brother, Dr. Reuben Gross of Eureka, Cal.

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This decrease in perfect stones makes them more valuable. Immensely each year, and the law of supply and demand makes the imperfect stones also go up in price rapidly. If you want a Diamond, but it now. Your money will secure you much greater Diamond value than it will later on.

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Child's Patent, Black Cloth Top Button Boots, sizes 3 to 10 1-2, \$1.95
Child's Patent, Sand Cloth Top Button Boots, sizes 3 to 10 1-2, \$2.85

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